

LORDS AMENDMENTS TO THE
PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES BILL

[The page and line references are to HL Bill 126, the bill as first printed for the Lords]

Clause 1

- 1 Page 1, line 12, leave out “2031” and insert “2033”
- 2 Page 1, line 13, leave out “eighth” and insert “tenth”

Clause 2

- 3 Page 2, line 20, leave out “As soon as reasonably practicable”
- 4 Page 2, line 26, at end insert –
- “(1A) The draft of an Order in Council must be submitted under subsection (1) –
- (a) as soon as reasonably practicable after all four reports have been laid before Parliament as mentioned in that subsection, and
- (b) in any case, no later than the end of the four month period unless there are exceptional circumstances.
- (1B) “The four month period” means the period of four months beginning with the first date on which all four reports have been laid before Parliament as mentioned in subsection (1).
- (1C) If the draft of an Order in Council is not submitted under subsection (1) before the end of the four month period, the Secretary of State or the Minister for the Cabinet Office must lay one or more statements before Parliament in accordance with subsection (1D) specifying the exceptional circumstances.
- (1D) A statement must be laid –
- (a) before the end of the period of 10 sitting days beginning with the first sitting day after the end of the four month period, and
- (b) before the end of each subsequent period of 20 sitting days beginning with the first sitting day after the previous statement was so laid, until the draft of an Order in Council is submitted under subsection (1).”
- 5 Page 2, line 38, at end insert –
- “(4) After subsection (7) insert –
- “(7A) In this section, “sitting day” means a day on which both Houses of Parliament sit; and for that purpose a day is only a day on which a House sits if the House begins to sit on that day.””

After Clause 4

6 Insert the following new Clause—

“The Boundary Commissions: constitution

- (1) Schedule 1 to the 1986 Act (the Boundary Commissions) is amended as follows.
- (2) At the end of paragraph 2 insert “in accordance with paragraph 3A below”.
- (3) In paragraph 3(a), for “Lord Chancellor” substitute “Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales”.
- (4) In paragraph 3(c), for “Lord Chancellor” substitute “Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales”.
- (5) After paragraph 3 insert—

“3A The two members of each Commission appointed by the Secretary of State shall each be appointed in accordance with the following process—

 - (a) a selection panel shall be convened by the Secretary of State to select the members of the Commission, which shall comprise—
 - (i) the deputy chairman of the Commission, and
 - (ii) two persons appointed by the Speaker of the House of Commons;
 - (b) the selection panel shall determine the selection process to be applied and apply that process;
 - (c) the selection panel shall select only one person for recommendation for each appointment as a member of the Commission;
 - (d) the selection panel shall submit to the Secretary of State a report stating who has been selected and any other information required by the Secretary of State;
 - (e) the Secretary of State shall on receipt of the report do one of the following—
 - (i) accept the selection,
 - (ii) reject the selection, or
 - (iii) require the panel to reconsider the selection;
 - (f) the power of the Secretary of State to require the selection panel to reconsider a selection is exercisable only on the ground that, in the Secretary of State’s opinion, there is not enough evidence that the person selected is suitable for appointment as a member of the Commission;
 - (g) the power of the Secretary of State to reject a selection is exercisable only on the ground that, in the Secretary of State’s opinion, the person selected is not suitable for appointment as a member of the Commission;
 - (h) the Secretary of State shall give the selection panel reasons in writing for requiring the reconsideration of, or rejecting, any selection.”
- (6) In paragraph 4, at end insert “, but the term for which each member (other than the chairman) is appointed shall be a non-renewable term.””

After Clause 5

7 Insert the following new Clause –

“Electorate per constituency

- (1) Rule 2(1) of Schedule 2 to the 1986 Act (electorate per constituency) is amended as follows.
- (2) In paragraph (a), for “95%” substitute “92.5%”.
- (3) In paragraph (b), for “105%” substitute “107.5%”.

After Clause 6

8 Insert the following new Clause –

“Improving completeness of electoral registers for purposes of boundary reviews etc.

- (1) Within a year of this Act coming into force, the Secretary of State must lay before Parliament proposals for improving the completeness of electoral registers for purposes of boundary reviews.
- (2) The proposals in subsection (1) may include requirements for either –
 - (a) the Department for Work and Pensions to provide every registration officer with the name, address, date of birth and nationality of each individual in their district to whom they issue a National Insurance number ahead of their 16th birthday, and for registration officers to add to the full electoral registers those electors who they are satisfied are eligible for inclusion; or
 - (b) the Department for Work and Pensions to notify individuals of the criteria for eligibility to vote and of the process for making an application to join the register when they are issued with a new National Insurance number.”

LORDS AMENDMENTS TO THE
Parliamentary Constituencies Bill

*Ordered, by The House of Commons,
to be Printed, 19th October 2020.*

© Parliamentary copyright 2020

*This publication may be reproduced under the terms of the Open Parliament Licence, which is published at
www.parliament.uk/site-information/copyright.*